

**REMARKS**

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application. The specification has been amended to insert headings.

Claims 1-15 and 21-22 are pending in the application. Claims 1-15 have been amended to improve their language in a non-narrowing fashion. New claim 21 generally sets forth subject matter canceled from claim 8. New claim 22 generally sets forth subject matter from claim 1 using a shortened preamble. New claims 23 and 24 find support in, e.g., Figure 1 of the application.

No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

**Claim Objections**

The claims are objected to as misspelling the word "characterized". However, the claims have been amended to set forth the invention without using this word.

**Rejection Under 35 USC §112, Second Paragraph**

Claims 1-15 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Official Action asserts that the term "characterized in that" is unclear. However, this term has been removed from the claims.

The Official Action asserts that the term "slight" in claim 6 is subjective. However, this term has been removed from claim 6 without prejudice in order to expedite prosecution.

The Official Action asserts that the exemplary subject matter set forth in claim 8 is unclear. However, the exemplary subject matter has been removed from claim 8 and presented in new claim 21.

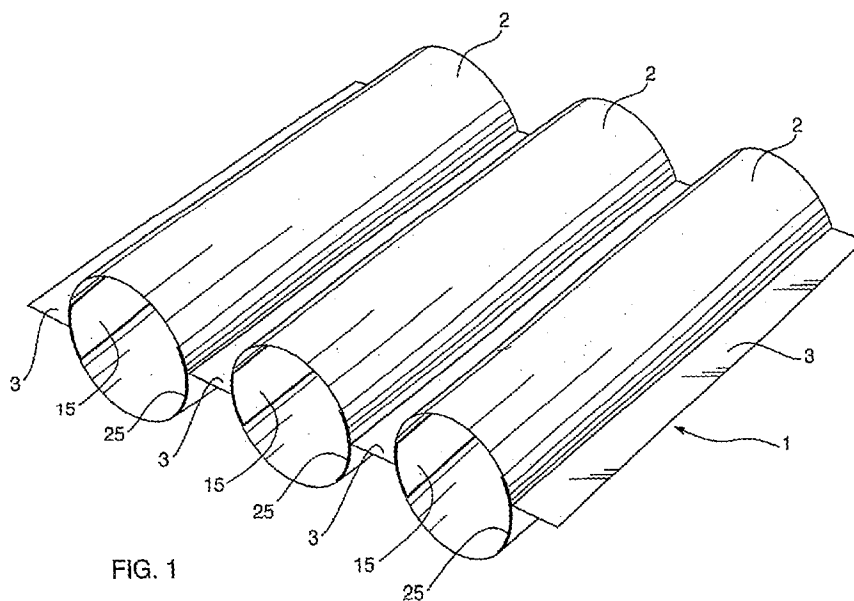
The claims are thus, clear, definite and have full antecedent basis.

This rejection is believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

**Rejection Over HARTEL et al.**

Claims 1-15 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over HARTEL et al. (U.S. Patent 4,846,917). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention pertains to a method for forming a coated fabric jacket (1) from at least one gas-tight tub (2), as can be seen for example in Figure 1 of the application, which is reproduced below.



The method of the present invention is for **continuously** producing a coated fabric jacket, such as is set forth in the process steps of claim 1.

The present invention produces coated fabric jackets are used in a number of applications, for example, for forming inflatable tubes having a pneumatic structure, such as life rafts, or for forming beams or inflatable structures, or for producing, for example floating anti-pollution barriers.

The continuous method of the present invention allows the production of a coated fabric jacket having tubular zones forming tubes and  $n+1$  connection zones.

HARTEL et al. pertain to forming an inflatable hollow body from a double cloth. The Official Action refers to Figures 1 and 2 of HARTEL et al., which are reproduced below.

Fig.1

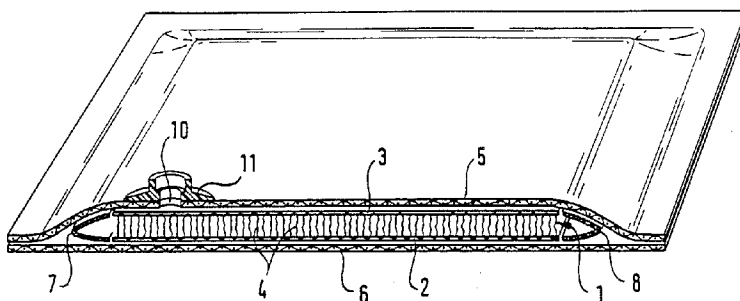
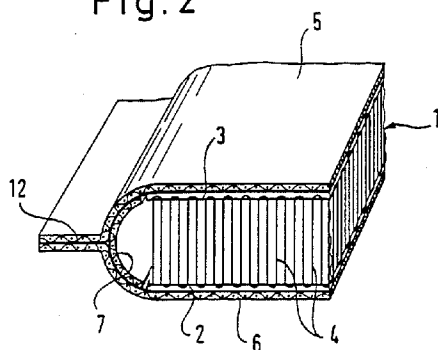


Fig.2



In HARTEL et al. the double cloth or textile fabric 1 used for producing a hollow body, having two plies or sheets 2 and 3 which are kept apart by yarns or threads 4 extending at right angles to the piles. Angle irons 7 and 8 are put on the sides.

HARTEL et al. does not disclose or infer a method for continuously producing a coated fabric jacket. That is, for example, there is no teaching or inference in HARTEL et al. of forming a structure containing at least one or more tubes, such as is shown in Figure 1 of the application.

One of ordinary skill and creativity would thus fail to produce a claimed embodiment of the present invention from a knowledge of HARTEL et al. A *prima facie* case of unpatentability has thus not been made.

This rejection is believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

**Conclusion**

The Examiner is thanked for considering the Information Disclosure Statement filed November 12, 2005 and for making the references therein of record in the application.

Prior art of record but not utilized is believed to be non-pertinent to the instant claims.

The objections and rejections are believed to have been overcome, obviated or rendered moot and that no issues remain. The issuance of a Notice of Allowability is accordingly respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

/Robert E. Goozner/  
Robert E. Goozner, Reg. No. 42,593  
209 Madison Street, Suite 500  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Telephone (703) 521-2297  
Telefax (703) 685-0573  
(703) 979-4709

REG/fb